

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, October 21, 2019  
2:00–3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☐ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☐ Region 4 *Alternate*: Jerry Cain (Mississippi  
Band of Choctaw Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeff Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☐ Region 6: Craig Kreman (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: Vacant
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☐ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk  
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Vacant
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 (Alaska): Alexis Wagner (Metlakatla  
Indian Community)

***Support Personnel***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Support Contractor (SCG)

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: Vacant
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☒ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☒ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☒ Region 7: Christopher (Chris) Taylor
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☒ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☐ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☐ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☐ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☒ OW: Karen Gude

***Invited Speakers and Guests***

- ☒ Andy Bessler, Institute for Tribal Environmental  
Professionals
- ☒ Deborah Bredehoft, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Patrick Bustos, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Kacee Deener, EPA ORD OSAPE
- ☒ Aileen Gagney, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- ☒ Maggie LaVay, EPA ORD OSAPE
- ☒ Gillian Mittelstaedt, Tribal Healthy Homes  
Network
- ☒ Danielle Ramos, ORISE Fellow, EPA OCHP
- ☒ Mary Ross, EPA ORD OSAPE
- ☒ Matthew Small, EPA Region 9
- ☒ Stephen Wolfe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation

## **Action Items**

1. TSC members will read the monthly teleconference minutes to ensure that they are aware of current TSC activities, news and action items.

## **Key Discussion Points**

### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica Rodia took the roll and explained that the September monthly call notes had been finalized and distributed to the members.
- TSC members should read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities, news and action items.

### ***Caucus Report Outs***

- Jeff Mears announced that Neil Patterson will be the new Tribal Co-Chair, and Page Hingst will be the Tribal vice chair.
- José Zambrana reported that during its last call, the EPA Caucus focused on the upcoming face-to-face meeting and how to frame tribal science needs so that the TSC can help address them in the most effective manner.

### ***Update on EPA Co-Chair Nomination***

- Mary Ross, Director, Office of Science Advisor, Policy and Engagement (OSAPE), explained that the office has been restructured recently, and she is excited about continuing to implement tribal programs. Kacee Deener, Director of the former Office of Science Policy, and now Deputy Director of OSAPE, will attend the upcoming TSC face-to-face meeting. OSAPE has asked José to continue in his role as EPA Co-Chair, and he has agreed. José is excited to work with Neil in moving the TSC forward.

### ***Safeguarding Children's Health: A Strategic Approach to Monitoring, Mitigating and Communicating Air Quality Risks at an Early Childhood Education Center, Gillian Mittelstaedt and Aileen Gagney, Tribal Healthy Homes Network***

- The Tribal Healthy Homes Network ([www.thhnw.org](http://www.thhnw.org)), which was established in 2009, works with tribes in Region 10 and nationally, and the Tulalip Tribe has been providing leadership and support for many years. The network's efforts are culturally driven and are community-focused using science- and evidence-based practices. The Tribal Healthy Homes Network collaborates with tribes, agencies, researchers and nonprofit organizations to promote just, healthy and safe living environments for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- The spectrum of risk to children's environmental health includes a wide range of contaminants and exposure pathways; this presentation focuses on ambient and indoor air quality.
- A Tulalip building in which 12 environmental health staff members worked was found to have loose asbestos, formaldehyde, lead paint and 27 different species of mold, and these exposures resulted in a series of health consequences (e.g., headaches, nausea, miscarriages). Of the 11 pregnancies of staff members working in the building, all 11 were preterm, and all of the children went on to develop reactive airway disease, asthma and neurological impairments. These outcomes highlighted the need to improve buildings on the reservation and a very real problem for tribal communities.

- Data show that a significant discrepancy exists between Native and non-Native communities.
- Wood smoke exposure in tribal communities is one of the most pivotal children's environmental health issues. Although the image of children around an outdoor campfire is a positive one, data show that children's exposure to wood and wildfire smoke is as detrimental as exposure to tobacco smoke. Ensuring that the science is communicated to protect children from this type of exposure is important.
- The Tribal Healthy Homes Network is trying to change the way people view children's environmental health by focusing on a strategic, child-centered approach to the primary prevention of airborne exposures. For example, what if "indoor air" was not an environmental phrase but rather was a vision of thriving, healthy children? What if children's environmental health was preventive rather than responsive, comprehensive rather than piecemeal, and a responsibility shared across all environmental programs (e.g., schools, clinics, housing, social services, early childhood and youth services)? This is the vision that the Tribal Healthy Homes Network promotes, and it looks for opportunities to effect change through its programs (e.g., integrated pest management, HVAC with HEPA filters as a standard for new construction, stove repair and maintenance).
- Aileen Gagney described a case study of indoor air exposures at the Tulalip Early Learning Academy (TELA). A TELA nurse reported that four of six children in one class had an atopic rash. An environmental review of potential contaminants indicated that the cleaning chemicals might be the cause. Less-toxic cleaning alternatives were implemented (including hot-steam extraction for the carpet), and dryer sheets were removed from the environment. Within 1 week, all four children's rashes had resolved. The building custodians have removed 95 percent of the chemical agents that previously were stored in the building and permanently switched to low-toxicity cleaning agents.
- TELA communicates air-quality risk through a flag program, indicating the risks through various colors. Tulalip performs air-quality monitoring using PurpleAir air sensor technology, which determines the color of flag that will be flown. The colors and ratings used range from green, which indicates that the air is safe for outdoor activities, to purple, which indicates that the air is very unhealthy and that all individuals should remain inside when possible. The PurpleAir map is available nationwide, although the instruments in some areas have not been calibrated with federal reference monitors.
- A positive correlation often is present between ambient and indoor concentrations, particularly with fine and ultrafine particles less than 1 micrometer in diameter.
- The Tribal Healthy Homes Network distributes Air Matters Toolkits, creates culturally tailored and evidence-based educational resources, offers custom onsite indoor air quality training, and provides phone-based technical assistance. A partnership with the Alaska Native Health Tribal Health Consortium allows the toolkits to be distributed to pediatric patients with asthma at the Alaska Native Medical Center to prevent, monitor and mitigate potential risks.
- Gillian Mittelstaedt showed a video about the program, available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGsYZ-ftUpl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGsYZ-ftUpl). Information and a searchable database about funding to mitigate risks around the indoor environment can be found at [www.tribalindoorairfunding.org](http://www.tribalindoorairfunding.org). Gillian and Aileen can be contacted at [gmittelstaedt@thhnw.org](mailto:gmittelstaedt@thhnw.org) and [agagney@thhnw.org](mailto:agagney@thhnw.org), respectively.

***TSC Business Items***

- *TSC Fall 2019 Face-to-Face Meeting*
  - The TSC Fall 2019 Face-to-Face Meeting will be held November 13–15. November 12 and the afternoon of November 15 have been designated for travel to and from the meeting location at EPA’s Atlantic Coastal Environmental Sciences Division laboratory in Narragansett, Rhode Island.
  - Monica has collected all of the travel preference forms from the Tribal Representatives, and they will receive their itineraries soon.
  - The EPA Representatives should receive the training and SF-182 forms during the week of October 28.
  - The deadline for members to make hotel reservations at the negotiated government rate is October 31.
  - Monica reported that Billy Longfellow and possibly his colleague will present about some of their tribe’s environmental projects.
  - Monica and José provided an overview of the agenda. Page Hingst volunteered to introduce the “PFAS” topic at the face-to-face meeting, and Neil volunteered to introduce the “Sustaining Culturally Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitats” topic. A Tribal Representative still is needed to introduce the “Harmful Algal Blooms” topic.

***Announcements***

- José is presenting about the TSC at the Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting this week.
- Two webinars to obtain tribal input about EPA’s vision for citizen science will be held on October 22 and 28; both sessions will run from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT.

***Next TSC Teleconference***

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on Monday, December 16, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST.